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Senator Daniel Inouye's
Introduction of PIARDS
Amendment

April 22, 1982

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SENATOR DANIEL INOUE'S INTRODUCTION OF CIARDS AMENDMENT

On 22 April 1982, the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD reported for the U.S. Senate the following statement prepared by Senator Daniel Inouye of Hawaii and presented on behalf of Senator Goldwater and accompanied by Senators Moynihan, Durenberger, and Huddleston as co-sponsors:

I rise to introduce the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System Spouses' Equity Act. This act would provide for equitable sharing the the spouses of qualifying Central Intelligence Agency officers in benefits paid from the Central Intelligence Agency retirement and disability system.

The CIARDS system, which provides for improved retirement and disability benefits for qualifying CIA employees, has been made available to certain employees of the Agency due to the nature of their work, usually involving difficult periods of service abroad. The act would recognize that such service to the country, rendered by CIA officers, often involves the dedicated support of their spouses. These spouses are called upon to serve in posts overseas, subject to frequent transfers and often difficult and sometimes dangerous conditions, as part of a joint effort with the Agency employees to whom they are married to further vital foreign policy objectives of the United States.

This legislation would recognize in a small but important way the significance of this service, to help to insure that this class of people are protected later in life regardless of their marital circumstances at that time. The act would create no significant additional financial obligations for the U.S. Government. It would provide for proportional sharing by qualified former spouses of the retirement benefits of CIA officers participating in CIARDS.

THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE SPOUSES OF CIA OFFICERS IN CLANDESTINE SERVICE ABROAD

.....I need not dwell in great detail about some facts of which we are all well aware. The prevalence of divorce in our country is increasing with changing attitudes toward marriage and personal fulfillment. Increasingly, divorces are granted in accordance with a "no fault" model in which it is sufficient for the party seeking divorce to demonstrate his or her personal incompatibility with the marriage partner.

While divorces have thus become easier to obtain, there has not necessarily been an accompanying development of legal concepts to provide for divorced spouses. Especially in traditionally oriented families in which the husband has had primary wage-earning responsibilities and the wife child-rearing and housekeeping duties, easier divorce has often worked disadvantages on women who have sacrificed their own career opportunities and personal development in order to fulfill their commitments to their husbands

and families. For these women, access to the courts and the availability of divorce judgments has not always provided the security, especially later in life, that they had expected based on their traditional service to their families. As a result of this situation, several Federal systems of retirement benefits---including the Foreign Service and civil service systems---have been amended to make automatic payments to qualified former spouses or at least to make such benefits provided to the participant accessible to their former spouses through judicial action or legal settlements or other agreements.